

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /072 W
-----098345 210750Z /11

O P 210510Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9161
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0190

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

ANKARA FOR SPIEGEL WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: STATEMENT BY ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN

1. ADRIAAN EKSTEEN, CHARGE OF SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION TO UN,
SOUGHT OUT AMBASSADOR MCHENRY, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
CONTACT GROUP, TO PROVIDE THEM WITH TEXT OF JANUARY 20
STATEMENT MADE BY ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN IN NAMIBIA.
TEXT READS AS FOLLOWS:

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"WITH REFERENCE TO AN APPEAL MADE TO ME BY CERTAIN
PROMINENT POLITICIANS THAT, THROUGH MY MEDIATION, SPEEDY
FINALITY BE ACHIEVED IN SOUTH WEST AFRICAN DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS AND THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA. I MAKE A SERIOUS APPEAL TO ALL POLITICIANS
TO EXERCISE PATIENCE.

"THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THIS MOMENT ARE SUCH THAT THE INHABITANTS OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE TOO HASTY TO SEE AN END TO THE PRESENT INITIATIVE.

"IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SPECIFICALLY FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO REACH A REAL, PERMANENT, PEACEFUL AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION FOR THE TERRITORY, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT BECAUSE SO MUCH IS AT STAKE, I AM MAKING A SERIOUS APPEAL TO ALL LEADERS IN THE TERRITORY NOT TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS DELICATE STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO FURTHER COMPLICATE THE ALREADY DIFFICULT TASK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA." END TEXT.

2. COMMENT. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WISHED STEYN'S STATEMENT DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONTACT GROUP AS EACH MEMBER RECEIVED AN EARLY MORNING CALL DESPITE SKELETON OFFICE OPERATIONS AS RESULT OF BAD WEATHER. WE MAY BE WITNESSING A SOUTH AFRICAN EFFORT TO BACK DOWN FROM ITS PLAN TO ANNOUNCE UNILATERALLY A DATE FOR ELECTIONS AT LEAST AT THIS TIME. WHETHER OR NOT INSTIGATED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, STEYN'S COUNSEL OF PATIENCE IN SEARCH OF A LASTING SOLUTION, PERHAPS FOLLOWED BY "RELUCTANT ACQUIESCENCE" OF TURNHALLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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COMBINED WITH MINISTERIAL LEVEL TALKS, COULD BE CITED BY SAG AS JUSTIFICATION OF ANY DECISION TO POSTPONE THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DATE FOR ELECTIONS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, SAG COULD LATER CITE THIS ACTION AS AN EXAMPLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN REASONABLENESS IN THE EVENT NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED. END COMMENT. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0551
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780136/aaaabemz.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f30925e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3734188
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: STATEMENT BY ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, (STEYN, MT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f30925e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014